GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:8
ANSWERED ON:19.11.2001
COTTON CROP
AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that existing cotton crop has been damaged in many States and the farmers suffered huge losses;

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the loss suffered, State-wise;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide financial assistance to affected States;

(f) if so, details thereof, State-wise; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH)

(a) to (g): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFFERED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 8 DUE FOR REPLY ON 19TH NOVEMBER, 2001.

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. The cotton crop in the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan have suffered losses on account of attack of American boll worm. The early onset of the rains in the month of May and June 2001 led to early buildup of pest. Subsequent intermittent rains and cloudy weather helped further multiplication of pest and hindered the spray operations, causing damage to cotton.

The losses of cotton lint estimated by these States are as under:-

S.No.	State	Loss of cotton lint (Lakh bales of 170 kg each)
1.	Punjab	4.33
2.	Haryana	7.78
3.	Rajasthan	3.39
	Total	15.50

(c)&(d): Both the Central and State Governments sent teams to survey the extent of damage to the cotton crop.

The affected area was reported as 4.53 lakh hectare in Punjab, 2.85 lakh hectare in Rajasthan and 3.55 lakh hectare in Haryana. The States took suitable measures for the control of pest by guiding farmers for the appropriate use of pesticides, checking quality of pesticides, distribution of leaflets, organizing kisan goshties etc.

(e) to (g): Farmers are compensated under National Agricultural Insurance Schemes for crop losses. However, only those farmers who have insured their crop are provided compensation as per the rules/norms. However, the States of Haryana, Punjab andRajasthan are not covered under the scheme as these States have not opted for the insurance scheme.